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# Community Resilience

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## Who are we?

- Mhairi McCowan – Risk & Resilience Manager, Aberdeenshire Council
- Julia Nicol – Risk & Resilience Officer, Aberdeenshire Council



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## Civil Contingencies Overview

- Emergency Planning introduced in early 1990s
- Civil Contingencies Act introduced in 2004 & amendments for Scotland in 2005
- Replaced the Civil Defence Act 1948



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# Civil Contingencies Overview

## Contingency Planning (Scotland) Regulations 2005

### Part 1

- Local Arrangements for Civil Protection
- Places duties on defined responders

### Part 2

- Government Emergency powers





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## Category 1 Responders

### Category 1

- Local Authorities
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- NHS Grampian
- HM Coastguard
- SEPA
- Adult Health and Social Care Partnerships



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**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**  
*Taking Care to the Patient*



**SEPA**  
Scottish Environment  
Protection Agency



**HM Coastguard**



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**Aberdeenshire  
Health & Social Care  
Partnership**



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## Category 2 Responders

### Category 2

- Utilities Companies
- Transport Authorities
- Health & Safety Executive

### Additional

- Voluntary Sector
- Military
- The Community





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## Civil Contingencies Act 2004

### Seven duties under the Act:

- Duty to Assess Risk
- Duty to Maintain Emergency Plans
- Duty to Maintain Business Continuity Plans
- Duty to Promote Business Continuity
- Duty to Communicate with the Public
- Duty to Share Information
- Duty to Co-operate





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# Principles of Emergency Planning & Response

## Aims

- Protect human life, property & environment
- Prevent escalation
- Safeguard the civilians & relieve suffering
- Maintain normal services at an appropriate level
- Manage an effective co-ordinated joint response
- Build Back Better





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## What is an Emergency?

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 states that an 'emergency' is:

- An event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare
- An event or situation which threatens serious damage to the environment
- War, or terrorism, which threatens serious damage to security

It is important that communities **PREPARE** to ensure they become more resilient during times of crisis. This will ensure that the **RESPONSE** and **RECOVERY** phases of an incident are carried out effectively and efficiently, especially in partnership with Category 1 and 2 Responders, as we will explain.



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## Response Roles & Responsibilities – Aberdeenshire Council

- Support the emergency services and those assisting them;
- Provide a variety of support services for the local and wider community;
- Maintain normal services at an appropriate level;
- Provide a wide range of social care and welfare services, working alone or with public,
- Private and voluntary organisations. Services include care for people, rest centres, temporary accommodation, re-housing and practical support for victims;
- Access a wide variety of specialist, scientific, environmental and communications expertise;
- Represent the diverse interests of local people and, in so doing, maintain close links with communities through elected members, Community Councils, Community Planning and other formal partnerships;
- Have powers to take action to preserve community wellbeing; and
- Lead the longer-term recovery and regeneration of affected communities.



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## Response Roles & Responsibilities – Police Scotland

- Safeguard Civilians;
- Scene management;
- Investigation of the incident;
- Collection & distribution of casualty information;
- Identification of the deceased;
- Prevention and detection of crime;
- Family liaison



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## Response Roles & Responsibilities – Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

- The saving of life through search and rescue;
- Fire fighting and prevention of fire spread;
- Rendering humanitarian assistance;
- Protection of property and the environment;
- Management within the inner cordon;
- Managing incidents involving hazardous materials;
- Qualified scientific advice in relation to HAZMAT incidents and damage control; and mass decontamination of casualties following a CBRN incident





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## Response Roles & Responsibilities – Scottish Ambulance Service

- Save life and provide immediate care for patients at the scene of the incident and in transit to hospital;
- Alert Hospital Services and other relevant NHS agencies;
- Manage decontamination of people affected by hazardous substances prior to evacuation from the scene;
- Evacuate the injured from the scene in order of medical priority;
- Arrange and ensure the most appropriate transport for the injured to the receiving hospital;
- Supply patient care equipment to the scene of an emergency;
- Transport vital medical staff and their equipment to the scene of an emergency;
- Alert the Red Cross and St Andrew's Ambulance Association and coordinate their work in support of SAS;
- Provide and maintain communications equipment for medical staff and voluntary organisations at the scene of an emergency; and restore normality.





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## Where does the Community fit in?

**Emergencies happen.** Your local emergency responders will always have to prioritise those in greatest need during an emergency, especially where life is in danger. There will be times when you may be affected by an emergency but your life is not in immediate danger.

In order for Community Resilience to be effective, a co-ordinated approach is essential. Community Resilience Groups can provide this approach locally as you know your local area and resources best.



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## Where does the Community fit in?

- Build on existing local relationships and networks, using local knowledge and preparing for risks, your community will be better able to cope during and after an emergency.
- You can create a community emergency plan to better understand and utilise local resources.
- Enhance information sharing prior, during or after an incident.
- Assist with the initial emergency response pending arrival of emergency resources.
- Support the recovery of your community.



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## Where does the Community fit in?

### **Make your contribution**

Your help and skills in leading your community and helping them to be more resilient and prepared could be vital.

### **Work in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council & local emergency responders**

Your community should know what local emergency responders are able to do for you in an emergency and vice versa – this means talking to each other during the planning and exercising process once your community plan has been created.

Work in partnership to complement the work of the local emergency responders and other organisations before, during and after an emergency – **assistance not hindrance!**

### **Don't put yourself at risk**

Individuals and Community Resilience Groups should never do anything which puts themselves or their community at risk

### **Talk to each other**

Talk to other communities who have created a community plan and experienced some of the successes and frustrations of developing community resilience locally.





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## **What types of tasks could the community have during a emergency response?**

- Door knocking or delivery of emergency messages during evacuation;
- Check on your neighbours;
- Opening “place of safety”;
- Providing resources from the Community Asset Register to assist in response;
- Identifying those who may need extra assistance to move to safety;
- A hot cuppa for our emergency responders!



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## How do we increase our Community Resilience?

By following this 3 step process:

- Step 1: Planning for an emergency
- Step 2: What to do in an emergency
- Step 3: Practising & reviewing your plan



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## Step 1: Planning for an emergency

Issues to consider:

- Identify your community
- Identifying existing local relationships and getting people involved
- Community emergency groups and co-ordinators
- Identifying the most vulnerable in an emergency
- Identifying and preparing for risks (social/environmental/infrastructure)
- Assessing community skills and resources
- Insurance and health & safety
- Identifying key locations
- Emergency contact list
- Complete Household emergency plans



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## Step 2: What to do in an emergency

Issues to consider:

- Activation of your plan...this is **NOT** a substitute for calling 999
- First Community Emergency Group meeting...are you ready?
- Wait for instruction from the emergency services
- Evacuation
- Communications



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## Step 3: Practising & reviewing your plan

Issues to consider:

- Sharing your plan
- Reviewing and updating your plan
- Exercising your plan within your community groups
- Raising awareness of any concerns, risks or hazards within your community to Aberdeenshire Council & local emergency responders



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## Final Thoughts...

- Community Resilience Groups can provide essential support at a local level during incidents.
- Community Resilience is most effective when coordinated.
- It is important to work in partnership with responding agencies.
- **Resilient Communities are Stronger Communities.**



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**Thank you**

Any questions?

[aberdeenshire.gov.uk](http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk)